

What is claimed is:

1           1. A method of managing a virtual private network,  
2           the method comprising:

3                 providing a graphical user interface configured to  
4           display at least one link for each of a plurality of  
5           computers offering virtual private network functions.

1           2. The method of claim 1, wherein the computers  
2           comprise extranet switches.

1           3. The method of claim 1, wherein the link  
2           comprises an HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) link.

1           4. The method of claim 1, wherein the link  
2           comprises a link to information describing users of the  
3           virtual private network functions provided by a computer.

1           5. The method of claim 1, wherein the link  
2           comprises a link to information describing packet filters  
3           provided by the computers offering virtual private network  
4           functions.

1           6. The method of claim 1, wherein the link  
2 comprises a link to information describing access hours of  
3 one of the computers offering virtual private network  
4 functions.

1           7. The method of claim 1, further comprising  
2 providing a list of the computers offering virtual private  
3 network functions in the same display as a link.

1           8. The method of claim 7, wherein the link  
2 displayed corresponds to a computer selected from the list  
3 of computers offering virtual private network functions.

1           9. The method of claim 1, further comprising  
2 transmitting an HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) request  
3 when a link is selected by a user.

1           10. A method of managing a virtual private network,  
2 the method comprising providing a graphical user interface  
3 display that includes:

4           a list of extranet switches offering virtual private  
5 network functions; and

6 a collection of HTTP links for an extranet switch  
7 selected from the list, the links causing transmission of an  
8 HTTP request.

1 11. A computer program product, disposed on a  
2 computer readable medium, for managing a virtual private  
3 network, the program comprising instructions for causing a  
4 processor to:

5 provide a graphical user interface configured to  
6 display at least one link for each of a plurality of  
7 computers offering virtual private network functions.

1 12. The computer program product of claim 11,  
2 wherein the computers comprise extranet switches.

1 13. The computer program product of claim 11,  
2 wherein the link comprises an HTTP (HyperText Transfer  
3 Protocol) link.

1 14. The computer program product of claim 11,  
2 wherein the link comprises a link to information describing

3 users of the virtual private network functions provided by a  
4 computer.

1 15. The computer program product of claim 11,  
2 wherein the link comprises a link to information describing  
3 packet filters provided by the computers offering virtual  
4 private network functions.

1 16. The computer program product of claim 11,  
2 wherein the link comprises a link to information describing  
3 access hours of one of the computers offering virtual  
4 private network functions.

1 17. The computer program product of claim 1,  
2 further comprising instructions for causing the processor to  
3 provide a list of the computers offering virtual private  
4 network functions in the same display the links.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 17,  
2 wherein the link displayed corresponds to a computer  
3 selected from the list of computers offering virtual private  
4 network functions.

1           19. The computer program product of claim 11,  
2 further comprising instructions for causing the processor to  
3 transmit an HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) request when  
4 a link is selected.

1           20. A computer program product, disposed on a  
2 computer readable medium, for managing a virtual private  
3 network, the program including instructions for causing a  
4 processor to provide a graphical user interface display that  
5 includes:

6           a list of extranet switches offering virtual private  
7 network functions; and

8           a collection of HTTP links for an extranet switch  
9 selected from the list, the links causing transmission of an  
10 HTTP request.

364390.B11